

Message Text

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ACTION SSM-05

INFO OCT-01 NEA-10 IO-13 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-05
H-01 INR-07 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01
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INFO AMEMBASSY CAIRO
AMEMBASSY TEL AVIV
USMISSION USUN NEW YORK
USMISSION SINAI

C O N F I D E N T I A L JERUSALEM 1429

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: PINT, XF, EG

SUBJECT: ALLEGED EGYPTIAN VIOLATION OF SINAI AGREEMENT

1. BEGIN UNCLASSIFIED. JERUSALEM POST SEPTEMBER 8
FRONTPAGES STORY BY HIRSH GOODMAN ON SEPTEMBER 7
MEETING BETWEEN SIILASVUO AND ISRAELI DEFENSE
MINISTER WEIZMAN DURING WHICH WEIZMAN COMPLAINED
OF CONTINUING EGYPTIAN VIOLATIONS OF SINAI AGREEMENT.
SOTRY GOES ON TO CITE HIGH-LEVEL ISRAELI DEFENSE
OFFICIALS AS SAYING THAT EGPIANS ARE MAINTAINING
16,000-18,000 MEN AS OPPOSED TO 8,000 AUTHORIZED
BY AGREEMENT. ALSO EGYPTIANS ARE ALLEGED TO HAVE
BUILT UNAUTHORIZED BUNKERS AND A MILITARY INFRA-
STRUCTURE WHICH WOULD SUPPORT MUCH LARGER FORCES
AND WEAPONS THA AUTHORIZED IN THE SINAI ACCORDS.
STORY THEN SPECULATES THAT "ONE OF THE
POSSIBILITIES ISRAEL IS CURRENTLY CONSIDERING
IS THAT OF INJECTING MORE TROOPS INTO THE
ISRAELI LIMITED FORCES ZONE "IF EGYPTIAN
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VIOLATIONS CONTINUE.

2. GOODMAN NOTES THAT ISRAELIS DO NOT BELIEVE
EGYPTIAN VIOLATIONS CINSTITUTE A MILITARY THREAT
AND THAT THIS MAKES EVEN MORE PUZZLING WHY THE
EGYPTIANS VIOLATE THE AGREEMENT. HE COMMENTS
THAT ANY ISRAELI DECISION TO VIOLATE THE AGREEMENT

IN RESPONSE TO EGYPTIAN VIOLATIONS WOULD CLEARLY
BE ON POLITICAL GROUNDS BECAUSE SUCH A DECISION
WOULD, IN EFFECT, LEAD TO ENDING THE SINAI
AGREEMENT. END UNCLASSIFIED.

3. COMMENT: DESPITE EGYPTIAN VIOLATIONS OF
AGREEMENT EARLIER THIS YEAR, OUR UN SOURCES TELL
US THAT EGYPTIANS HAVE BEEN MORE CAREFUL RECENTLY
ABOUT OBSERVING SINAI AGREEMENT. AUGUST 22
INSPECTION REPORTED ONLY 7,338 TROOPS, 8 BATTALIONS,
AND 75 TANKS. IT IS TRUE, ACCORDING TO UN SOURCES,
THAT EGYPTIANS HAVE BUILT FACILITIES AND PREPARED
POSITION IN LFZ FOR MANY MORE THAN 8,000 TROOPS
AUTHORIZED, THAT UN INSPECTIONS FIND LARGE NUMBER
OF "EMPTY BEDS" INDICATING POSSIBLE NUMBERS IN
EXCESS OF 8,000, AND THAT JUST BEFORE EVERY
INSPECTION THERE IS A LOT OF TRAFFIC HEADING
WEST ACROSS THE CANAL. WE UNDERSTAND THAT
SIILASVUO IS IN EGYPT NOW AND HAS ASKED
TO SEE GAMASY AS SOON AS POSSIBLE.

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